

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007782

FROM NEA/IRN NAAS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SHUM, IR

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR DR. GHOLAMHOSSEIN SA'EDI

REFERENCE: TEHRAN 00344

1. PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION WAS INFORMED OF INFORMATION IN REFTEL (BUT NOT THE IRANIAN SOURCE OF INFORMATION) IN THE HOPE THAT THIS ENCOURAGING NEWS WOULD PREVENT FURTHER ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF DR. SA'EDI DURING THE SHAHBANOU'S VISIT. A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION HAS SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED BY PHONE WITH DR. SA'EDI WHO STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TELL ANY INQUIRING PRESSMEN, PARTICULARLY FOREIGNERS, THAT HE WAS FREE TO TRAVEL BUT THAT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT HE IS NOT FREE TO TRAVEL AND WILL NOT BE GRANTED A PASSPORT.

2. IT SEEMS TO ME HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE MINISTER OF
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COURT WOULD DELIBERATELY TRY TO MISLEAD US AND THAT THIS MAY VERY WELL BE A BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE COURT AND THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS WILL PROBABLY CARRY OUT A SMALL PROTEST DURING THE SHAHBANOU'S VISIT OR MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO

DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH HER. IF IN FACT SA'EDI'S VERSION
IS THE CORRECT ONE, THIS KIND OF FLIM FLAM CAN ONLY BE
HARMFUL, TO SAY THE LEAST.

3. IF POSSIBLE, ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN SEND ME BY
OPENING OF BUSINESS HERE THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 WOULD BE
HELPFUL. CHRISTOPHER

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